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superiority lay in the orderly development of his argument and the aphoristic crispness of his phrasing; Shaw's lay in the wider range of his illustrative matter.

As has been stated, Shaw dominated his bench, wherein he again resembled Marshall; and what is more, the leadership of both judges rested to no small extent on the affectionate regard which they stirred in their associates. Indeed the worshipful attitude of all and sundry toward Shaw in his later years was not without its humorous aspects at times. "One winter," Mr. Chase relates (p. 290), "when the court was sitting at Barnstable Judge Merrick, one of his colleagues, slipped on the icy steps and fell, breaking three ribs. The old janitor ministered to the injured judge as he lay waiting the coming of the doctor, groaning in severe pain. Searching for the bright lining to what seemed to be a pretty dark cloud, the janitor remarked soothingly, 'Well, Judge Merrick, how thankful you must be it wasn't the Chief Justice.'"

It seems to be implied on page 21 that the Phi Beta Kappa society originated at Harvard. This, of course, is not so.

E. S. C.

Letters of Susan Hale. By Caroline P. Atkinson. Introduction by Edward E. Hale. (Boston: Marshall Jones company, 1918. 483 p. \$3.50)

The hurly-burly of modern life is not conducive to the perusal of formal essays or collections of letters, the reading of which should not be hurried but thought over, talked about, and enjoyed with one's friends. But when a collection of letters, so full of life and wit and humor, so sparkling and clever as the *Letters of Susan Hale* is presented to the public, it should meet with approval, for few bits of fiction could be more fascinating and few histories could give a better account of social life during the nineteenth century.

Susan Hale had a brilliant personality. As a daughter of Nathan Hale and Sarah Preston Everett, and as a sister of Edward Everett Hale and Charles Hale, consul-general in Egypt, she came in intimate contact with such people as Emerson, Lowell, and others prominent in the social and literary circles of Boston, Newport, Paris, and other cities. Her broad education and her rich experiences and associations give high historical value to the collection of letters, while the funny little illustrations and the charm of the writer's style, make of the book a delightful human document.

Edward E. Hale has written a sympathetic introduction, giving an appropriate setting for the collection that follows. The book is excellently bound, contains a useful index, and shows withal an excellent choice and arrangement of material.

ESTHER M. DOLE